### MINUTES - GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California conference room

30April 2004, 3pm to 5pm

Attending: Marc Lea, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Teresa Campbell and Mike Zelina, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF; Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

The following **Ground Rules** were approved:

Be respectful Be bold, be brief – be seated Withhold judgment Listen as an ally

Each participating organization to send one representative to meetings, alternates to be designated at next meeting.

#### **Review of Board of Supervisors Minutes** 4-20-04 for **expectations** of our group:

Capturing what's happening in the county

Forum for learning with differing opinions

What are the issues; what are the regulations; keep a strong education focus and factual content so that community can make their own decisions

Constituents are both growers and consumers. Keep the content factual with rigorous scientific content, while including minority opinions.

Ecological potential for drawbacks to GE production – is what we hear overstated or understated and who can tell us which one it is.

Impacts on local production, both conventional and organic and the impacts of regulations on the supply chain.

Definitions are needed – biotech vs. GE; organic vs. conventional production

What are the economic impacts?

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

#### **Deliverables to the Board of Supervisors**

#### 1) Basic Information

• Glossary of terms – **Mary** 

FAO glossary of biotechnology for food and agriculture:

http://www.fao.org/biotech/index\_glossary.asp

Presentations on the history and timing of biotechnology and genetic engineering – Mary to email LeMaux presentation link to group

http://ucbiotech.org/resources/biotech/slides/biotech.html - here tis

- Top 10 crops in SLO Co and their potential for GE production Marc
- Information on other areas with long-term GE production to include promises, hopes, impacts, results (insurance issues, intellectual property, etc.) – All members to bring available information

#### 2) Snapshot of Current Regulations including any superceding regulations

GE production and release – Agenda item Wednesday

USDA, FDA, EPA – Marc and Neal (for organic production) Federal:

State: CDFA - Marc

County: B of S – Bern

#### 3) Implications of different actions that the Board of Supervisors might take

**Definitions:** (include what you think the following might mean)

**Self determined: Intermediate situation** 

Full ban:

Issue or Concern	Potential act			
	Self-determined	Intermediate	Full ban	Comments
Purity of local production				
Market protection				
Economic Impacts				
Enforcements				

Next meeting: Wednesday May 5, 2004 12:00pm to 2 pm Farm Bureau conference room Tank Farm Road

Adjourned 5 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 5/2/04

#### MINUTES - GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau Conference Room 5May 2004, 12pm to 2pm

Attending: Brenda Ouwerkerk, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Teresa Campbell and Mike Zelina, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF; Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 30April, 2004 reviewed and approved

Ground Rules were reviewed and methods of communication discussed. Communication by email to be reviewed in two weeks. Reviewed membership and that each participating organization to send one representative to meetings, alternates to be designated.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

Development of public forum was discussed and put aside, the committee agreeing that the education of the Board of Supervisors is most important at this time. The committee could recommend a public forum, co-sponsored by all committee members, to the Board.

An update on the status of the GE Free ballot initiative was requested for next meetings agenda.

#### **Basic information**

Glossary – continue to work on definitions for glossary - Mary

Existing presentations – continue to look for existing presentations on biotechnology and genetic engineering that presents information with strong scientific base – Mary and any one else who finds a good one. Discussion of the need for presentations on specific techniques tabled for later discussion.

#### **Snapshot of Regulations**

Top 10 crops in SLO County and their status – APHIS information available and presented, Brenda to update for corn.

Status of current regulation - USDA, FDA, EPA, State and local regulations reviewed and information developed by Ag Comm. Current status of organic certification and relationship to GMOs drafted by Neal – committee to review for questions. County Counsel contact Warren Jensen indicated the issue is currently under review – Bern to continue to follow up

Impacts of Actions and method of delivery to Board moved to next Agenda.

**Discussion of input from industry representatives** – committee would like to have input from many different stakeholders, including companies producing GE plant materials, growers, regulatory agencies. Schedule visits for upcoming meetings.

Next meeting: Thursday May 13, 2004 9:00am to 11amm UC Cooperative Extension Conference Room, 2156 Sierra Way

Adjourned 2:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 5/6/04

#### MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension Conference Room 13May 2004, 9am to 11am

Attending: Brenda Ouwerkerk, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Teresa Campbell, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF; Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 5May, 2004 reviewed and approved with one change.

**Update on Status of Initiative** Teresa reported that the County Counsel cleared the initiative on 12May. 10,000 signatures are needed by 4June. Mendocino County committee staff did training with SLO County initiative supporters on gathering signatures. Brenda had a question on Section 3 Exemptions regarding "licensed health care practitioner".

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

An update on the status of the GE Free ballot initiative was requested for next meetings agenda.

#### **Basic information**

**Mary** reported progress on glossary, and new PowerPoint presentations for the group to consider, located under the Resource link at. http://www.ucbiotech.org/

"**The Changing Landscape for Crops and Foods"** presented to the Economic Council for Mendocino County on January 16, 2004 in Ukiah, CA

"Food and Environmental Safety and the New Crops" presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science on February 13, 2004 in Seattle, WA.

The previous presentation considered for review by the committee, deemed to be outdated, continues to be on the Internet because of a companion, Spanish language version (re: Peggy LeMaux UC Berkeley).

New issue of California Agriculture on biotechnology at <a href="http://californiaagriculture.ucop.edu/">http://californiaagriculture.ucop.edu/</a> Scheduling guests for the committee tabled until the next meeting.

#### **Snapshot of Regulations**

**Top 10 crops** in SLO County and their status – APHIS information available and presented, Brenda to update for corn.

**Status of current regulation** – **Neal** will update information on organic certification and email to group.

#### **Impacts of Actions: See following pages**

Each committee member to include comments on what the implications are for possible for issues or concerns listed in the table.

#### Method of Delivery to Board moved to next Agenda.

#### **Future meetings and locations**

May  $20^{th}$ 9am – 11am Farm Bureau Conference Room

May 27<sup>th</sup>9am – 11am University of California Conference Room

June 1<sup>st</sup> 12pm – 2pm University of California Conference Room June 8<sup>th</sup> 11am – 1pm University of California Conference Room

Adjourned 11:10 am

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 5/17/04

#### Implications of different actions that the Board of Supervisors might take

#### **Definitions:**

Case 0: No action by the Board

Case 1: Board directs the development of suggested guidelines for producers and processors that may handle or grow genetically engineered crops

Case 2: Board approves action to review and approve (on a case-by-case basis) production of genetically engineered crops.

**Case 3:** Board prohibits production of genetically engineered crops.

Issue or Concern	Potential actions by Board of Supervisors				
	Case 0	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Comments
Purity of local production					
Market protection					
Economic Impacts					
Enforcements					
Unintended					
consequences/unknowns					
Market reaction					
Genetic pollution					
Labeling issues					
Regulatory issues					
Wildlife impacts					
Enforcement Costs					
Health implications					
Social/ethical/moral issues					
Loss of Biodiversity					
Non-target kills					
Escape organisms					
Impacts to organic production					
Loss of new varieties					
Higher productivity					
Effects on Market reputation					
Effects on chemical use					
Impacts to pest management					
programs					
New sources of medications					
Flexibility to respond to					
changes					
Rapid technological change					
Alternatives (Teresa and Neal					
to flesh out)					
Property rights issues					
Liability issues					
Potential sources of new					
products					

#### MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau Conference Room 20May 2004, 9am to 11am

Attending: Marc Lea, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Teresa Campbell, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF; Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 13May, 2004 reviewed and approved with one change.

**Update on Status of Initiative** Teresa reported that the committee had volunteers taking responsibility for gaining signatures in each area of the county. 858 signatures had been collected as of Sunday evening. An update on the status of the GE Free ballot initiative was requested for next meetings agenda.

We discussed contact by the Santa Maria Times regarding committee. The committee decided to contain remarks to the public about our collective work to our objectives.

Neal invited the committee to Cal Poly to meet Dr. Theresa Gruber with the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology on Friday from noon to 1:30 pm. Neal, Marc, Teresa, Bern, and Mary to attend.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

#### **Basic information**

Mary reported progress on glossary, and passed out copies of Peggy LeMaux's

"Food and Environmental Safety and the New Crops" presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science on February 13, 2004 in Seattle, WA, for review by the group. Also passed out copies of the April to June 2004 California Agriculture edition "Fruits of Biotechnology Struggle to Emerge", also available online at <a href="http://californiaagriculture.ucop.edu/">http://californiaagriculture.ucop.edu/</a>

There will be an edition of California Agriculture devoted to problems with Biotech – Mary to contact Cal Ag editor to determine release date.

Discussion of basic definitions resulted in committee decision to use definitions from credible sources. Reviewed a combination of FAO and CCOF definitions. Committee to review and come back with comments.

Scheduling guests for the committee tabled until the next meeting.

#### **Snapshot of Regulations**

**Top 10 crops** in SLO County and their status – Marc reported that all GE corn has dual acceptability (human and animal consumption); the current regulatory system would not detect production of GE corn in county

**Status of current regulation** – **Neal** will update information on organic certification and email to group.

#### **Impacts of Actions: See following pages**

Mary proposed a reorganization of the contents of the implications table; changes reviewed and edited by the committee.

Method of Delivery to Board moved to next Agenda.

### Appendix A. Committee Report – Evaluation of Growing GE Crops in San Luis Obispo County July 19, 2004

### **Future meetings and locations**

May 27 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 11am	University of California Conference Room
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	12pm – 2pm	University of California Conference Room
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 1pm	University of California Conference Room

Adjourned 11:15 am

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 5/26/04

### MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY

#### University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 27May 2004, 9am to 11am

Attending: Brenda Ouwerkerk, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Tom Ikeda, SLO Co Farm Bureau;

Teresa Campbell, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF By conference call: Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 20May, 2004 reviewed and approved. Old version of implications attached – Mary to resend updated version.

Reviewed request by Supervisor Pinard to have meetings taped. Committee decided this would inhibit successful brainstorming and respectfully declined; Committee has agreed to self-imposed limitations on attendance to move process along; will offer to share minutes and resource materials already collected. Mary to email this information.

Update on Status of Initiative Teresa joined late. Several thousand signatures collected. Common theme: didn't really know, wanted more information

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

#### **Basic information**

Committee discussed using Peggy LeMaux's "Food and Environmental Safety and the New Crops" as a discussion piece for the group to collectively reply to with opinions on contents. Committee to bring forward additional articles for similar process.

Committee agreed that copies of the April to June 2004 California Agriculture edition "Fruits of Biotechnology Struggle to Emerge", also available online at http://californiaagriculture.ucop.edu/, should be made available to Board.

Scheduling guests for the committee will likely not be possible before Board meeting. Committee agreed to identify questions, potential speakers, and additional resources for possible future meetings, depending on Ag Commissioner request.

#### **Snapshot of Regulations**

Organic certification - Neal emailed updated CCOF report. Committee to review on what is useful and how it will be used. Add as discussion item to agenda for next meeting.

Status of County – Bern reported that County Counsel indicates that if Initiative contains language that is potentially non-enforceable, or if it is superceded by State or Federal Law, then initiative can be turned down even if have signatures before it goes to ballot.

#### **Impacts of Actions:**

Work on Implications table needs to be priority for next meeting. Teresa would like temporary moratorium to be a separate option on implications table. All committee members to bring table with comments to next meeting. Mary to email correct version

Method of Delivery to Board moved to next Agenda.

#### **Future meetings and locations**

June 1<sup>st</sup> 12pm – 2pm University of California Conference Room

June 8<sup>th</sup> 11am – 1pm University of California Conference Room

Adjourned 11:00(?) am

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 5/30/04

#### MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 1June 2004, 12pm to 2pm

Attending: Brenda Ouwerkerk, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Teresa Campbell, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 27May, 2004 reviewed and amended

Update on Status of Initiative Committee continuing to collect signatures.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

#### **Impacts of Actions:**

Established an acceptable format for input to the Implications table that included impacts to consumers, and both conventional and organic producers. Agriculture sections of Implications table was discussed and amended. Mary to email table format to committee for input.

**Basic information** – moved to next agenda

Snapshot of Regulations – moved to next agenda

Adjourned 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 6/8/04

# MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 8June 2004, 11am to 1pm

Attending: Marc Lea, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Teresa Campbell, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension Also Attending: Bob Lilley, SLO County Ag Commissioner

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

**Minutes** of 1June, 2004 reviewed and approved. Mary to email minutes and agenda for today to group.

**Update on Status of Initiative** Committee continuing to collect signatures. Monday 7June was final day that signatures submitted were guaranteed to be processed in time for the initiative to be placed on the ballot. Currently collected over 9,000 (8,100 needed) but are looking for 30% over the required number to account for invalid signatures.

Reviewed with committee discussion regarding whether we were Board appointed and subject to the Brown Act. County Counsel informed Mary this was not the case, and as such we were not required to tape our meetings. Mary conveyed this information to the Supervisors via email.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

Committee process reviewed with Bob Lilley including basic information, snapshot of regulations and impacts of actions the Board might choose to make.

The committee is to deliver our report and separate individual reports, if so desired, to Bob by July 1. We will meet again with Bob on July 7.

**Format of delivery to Board** – in conjunction with Bob the following format was discussed for the July 20 Board of Supervisors meeting:

#### Education:

Definitions: biotechnology, genetic engineering, genetically modified organisms, gene flow were important terms to define up front

Snapshot of regulations: federal, state, and county summaries

Framing the issues for San Luis Obispo County

- 1) Keep a SLO county focus discussion is bigger than "us"/what can we influence here?
- 2) Crops in San Luis Obispo current and future issues

Top crops in SLO

Status of GE releases for top 10 SLO crops

Status of top 10 GE crops nationally

3) Issues and Concerns identified in committee matrix – the big picture

Final comments should address the initiative

#### **Future meetings and locations**

June 16 <sup>th</sup>	1pm to 3pm	University of California Conference Room
June 23	1pm to 3pm	University of California Conference Room
June 29	9am to 11am	University of California Conference Room
July 7	9am to 11am (Teres:	a by conference call) University of California Conference Room

Adjourned 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 6/14/04

## MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 15June 2004, 10am to 12pm

Attending: Brenda Ouwerkerk, SLO Co Ag Comm; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Pam Heatherington, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 8June, 2004 reviewed and approved. Mary to email minutes and agenda for today to group.

**Update on Status of Initiative** To date, 11,200 signatures collected.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

**Impacts of Actions** – GE Free Committee to send electronic copy of matrix for inclusion in committee table. All members to review whether it makes sense to include "current" comments in Cases 2 to 5. The committee to review whether to prioritize regulatory issues as the next topic we try to address in the table. **Snapshot of Regulations** - All members to review Bern's synopsis of County legal opinion on GMO's

#### Format of delivery to Board – punted to next meeting

#### **Future meetings and locations**

June 23	1pm to 3pm	University of California Conference Room
June 28	9am to 11am	University of California Conference Room
July 7	9am to 11am (Teresa b	by conference call) University of California Conference Room

Adjourned 12:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 6/28/04

#### MINUTES - GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 23June 2004, 1pm to 3pm

Attending: Marc Lea, SLO Co Ag Comm; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Michael Zelina, SLO Co GE Free; Neal MacDougall, CCOF Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

**Minutes** of 15June, 2004 to be reviewed on June 28 – dog ate homework.

Update on Status of Initiative To date, 11,200 signatures collected. Final date to submit signatures is June 28, but the only option to qualify will be a random sample of signatures.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

Impacts of Actions – The suggestion was made to combine market reaction and reputation as they address different sides of the same issue. Neal and Jackie to work on how organic and conventional production might share same market niche if County is GE Free. Continued discussion of whether the County can be called GE Free if Board's actions only applied to lands under County jurisdiction on this issue (Federal, state, and tribal lands being exempted).

Committee to review those issues and concerns for which no comments have been added for possible deletion. Bern requested any citations of health related articles for his review.

#### Format of delivery to Board – punted to next meeting

#### **Future meetings and locations**

June 28 9am to 11am University of California Conference Room

July 7 9am to 11am (Teresa by conference call) University of California Conference Room

Adjourned 3:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 6/28/04

# MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 28June 2004, 9am to 11am

Attending: Marc Lea, SLO Co Ag Comm; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Neal MacDougall, CCOF; Mary

Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

Not attending: GE-Free Committee, Health Department

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 15June and 23June reviewed and approved

**Update on Status of Initiative** Mary spoke with Julie Rodewald about whether unsigned petitions were considered public information – copies having been requested by other UC Advisors. Julie noted that the final date to submit signatures is June 28, and the method of qualification will be a random sample of all signatures. If the random sample passes the petition will likely go to the Board of Supervisors either July 20 or August 7.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

**Impacts of Actions** – Market reaction and reputation were combined as they address different sides of the same issue. Other references to market reputation were moved to this section. Neal and Jackie to worked on how organic and conventional production might share same market niche if County is GE Free. We reviewed all but the Liability issues section of regulations with input from Marc. Marc will delineate specific types of costs in Enforcement Costs section.

Bern requested any citations of health related articles for his review.

Format of delivery to Board – July 7 is our final meeting prior to delivery of report to Bob Lilley

Future meetings and locations – Theresa, I need to know where to call you on the 7<sup>th</sup>!!

July 7 9am to 11am (Teresa by conference call) University of California Conference Room

Adjourned 11:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 6/29/04

#### MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 7July 2004, 9am to 11am

Attending: Marc Lea, SLO Co Ag Comm; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Neal MacDougall, CCOF; Bern

Singsen, SLO Co Health; Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

Not attending: GE-Free Committee (note 7/8 – due to mix-up in connecting Teresa by conference call)

Also attending: Bob Lilley SLO Co Ag Commissioner

#### Committee objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 28June reviewed and approved.

**Update on Status of Initiative** GE Free committee members met with Bob on 2July; Bob will forward their written reports via email through Mary. Julie Rodewald will be taking the ballot initiative to the Board on 13July a change due to an impacted Board schedule on 20July. Due to change in Board schedule, Bob will be presenting his staff report to the Board on 3August rather than 20July. Since we were not able to put together a staff report that Bob could work with before the 2July deadline required, we drafted an update on the activities of the committee for Bob, sent to all members by email on 1July by email from Mary. Update approved by committee members present with minor changes to headers and the adoption of "Committee for the Evaluation of Growing Genetically Engineered Crops in San Luis Obispo County" as the committee name. **Mary** to send to Bob Lilley. Bob indicated he will forward to Board.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

Concerns expressed by all committee members as to continued review of committee products with out GE Free members in attendance. **Mary** to send emails and voice mail messages to encourage participation (now we know they were waiting for us to call this date, and delivering petitions to County Clerk-Recorder on the  $28^{th}$ ). Committee decided to carry on with review of materials given the very short time frame to complete work. (Note added 7/19 by Mary: Teresa's email with contact information was not received – she was hoping to connect with meeting but we weren't able to make it happen).

Impacts of Actions – Review of content resulted in following actions: Mary to identify individual comments and resources by organization and remove color scheme currently used to differentiate. Bern delivered draft "Genetically Engineered (GE) Organisms Health Implications" document. Bern will work to develop a more comprehensive definition of breeding to encompass Smart Breeding section. Mary to summarize Health Department "Health Implications" for inclusion in table. Marc to edit costs section for inclusion in table.

**Basic Information – Mary** to complete glossary of terms; Complete resources list can be appended to Implications table.

**Snapshot of Regulations – Bern** to email Mary status of county regulatory issues; Neal's organic certification document is completed. **Marc** to include basic information on how field testing for GE crops occurs in the field, and email to Mary.

**Mary** to compile all electronic forms of documents to committee prior to July 16 meeting for final review and cc to Bob Lilley.

Appendix A. Committee Report – Evaluation of Growing GE Crops in San Luis Obispo County
July 19, 2004

**Format of delivery to Board** – Bob will begin to review our final products on Monday 19July, and at this point plans to develop a 2 to 3 page executive summary and include our materials as appendices to the summary. The committee had no recommendations regarding future activities.

#### Future meetings and locations -

July 7 9:30am to 11:30am Bob Lilley's office (Bob will not be in attendance, but the space is available)

August 3 Staff report of committee work to Board of Supervisors

Adjourned 11:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 7/11/04

## MINUTES – GROWING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN SLO COUNTY University of California Cooperative Extension conference room 15July 2004, 9:30am to 11:30am

Attending: Marc Lea, SLO Co Ag Comm; Jackie Crabb, SLO Co Farm Bureau; Neal MacDougall, CCOF; Bern Singsen, SLO Co Health; Teresa Campbell and Michael Zelina, SLO GE-Free; Mary Bianchi UC Cooperative Extension

#### Committee Objectives

Our objectives are to provide information to the Board of Supervisors on growing GE crops in SLO County about issues that are within their abilities to influence; to include basic information on definitions, terms, and techniques for biotechnology, genetic engineering, organic and conventional production. We will strive to deliver this information in the context of the consumer's choice for locally grown produce and the producers choice for how and what they grow.

Minutes of 7July amended and approved.

**Update on Status of Initiative** County Board of Supervisors voted on 13July 3-2 to put the initiative on the November ballot, due to concerns from the County Clerk on timing. The Board expressed their concerns that this committee would be disappointed in not having our work reviewed prior to their decision.

#### **Deliverables to Board of Supervisors**

Final versions of the Glossary, County Counsel review, organic certification status were approved by the committee. Snapshot of regulations approved pending the addition of corn to the final table. Final version of Health Implications approved pending discussion of definition of smart breeding. Bern to review and discuss content with Greg.

**Impacts of Actions** – Neal developed an introduction to the matrix, approved by all committee members. Care to be taken that the introduction not be taken as an executive summary on the part of the committee.

Mary to compile all documents and deliver to Bob Lilley 19July.

**Format of delivery to Board** – Bob will begin to review our final products on Monday 19July, and at this point plans to develop a 2 to 3 page executive summary and include our materials as appendices to the summary. The committee had no recommendations regarding future activities.

August 3 Staff report of committee work to Board of Supervisors

Adjourned 11:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Bianchi, 7/19/04